

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

July 12, 2022

**Support SB 616 (Rubio): Child Custody: Child Abuse and Safety**

According to the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), there were 432,736 child maltreatment allegations in the State of California from April 2021 to March 2022. Some child maltreatment cases end tragically with children being murdered by an abusive parent or caregiver.

SB 616 is sponsored by the Center for Judicial Excellence and will align California with federal provisions within the Violence Against Women Act to prioritize child safety in our family court system. This measure will initiate California’s pathway to receive federal funding to further protect victims of child abuse and domestic violence. . The bill, known as “Piqui’s Law,” is based on a 5-year-old boy who was killed by his father in April 2017, despite his mother, Ana Estevez, fighting in family court to keep her abusive ex-husband from receiving visitation rights. “Piqui’s Law” would require judges, referees, commissioners, mediators, child custody recommending counselors, and evaluators involved in child custody proceedings to receive a minimum of 25 training hours on

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domestic violence and child abuse, including 20 training hours required every three years thereafter. In addition, SB 616 would require these trainings to adopt a framework that improves the ability for the courts to recognize and respond to child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, trauma, and domestic violence including coercive control and limits the courts' ability to force children into dangerous and unproven reunification programs designed to force children into recanting claims of abuse under duress.

Child abuse in America is a serious issue. Sadly, Los Angeles County has experienced this epidemic on a continual basis. "Piqui's Law" is a step in the right direction to make sure that when abuse is found, our family law court judges and personnel will be educated to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable children.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Chief Executive Office, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to send a five-signature letter in support of Senate Bill 616 to Senator Susan Rubio.

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SUP:KB